

SUNDAY AT PLYMOUTH

10:30 am **Worship Sunday, September 20, 2020**

Sixteenth Sunday after Pentecost

Lectionary Text for September 20: Matthew 20:1-16

Rev. Dr. Kelle Brown Preaching

11:30 am Online Coffee Hour

Virtual Worship Only!

Find links to video stream and worship bulletin and participate online at PlymouthChurchSeattle.org.

The church building will be closed for all activities until further notice.

Check PlymouthChurchSeattle.org for updates.

All pastoral care will be via telephone or e-mail.

If you have personal concerns, you may contact a minister or member of the Pastoral Care Team by calling the pastoral voice mail, 206.622.4865 *833, checked daily.

Staff e-mail addresses are listed under the "About" tab at PlymouthChurchSeattle.org. Click on "Ministers and Staff."

Plymouth Reads The rumor is true! Something new is coming to Plymouth. It involves books and risk and change. And it starts October 1. Stay tuned!

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Check Out the Library Blog This week's blog entry continues to discuss "Plymouth: A New Institutional Church." New articles posted every Monday at PlymouthChurchSeattle.org. Click on the Library box on the homepage and then the link to the blog. Check out archived articles, too.

Opening the Door to Hope A Virtual Celebration to Benefit the Residents and Programs of Plymouth Healing Communities. Friday, September 18, 6-6:30 pm. Livestream opens at 5:30 pm. Visit Plyhc.org to give and to learn more.



Beloved, Love in Action

"Do your little bit of good where you are. It's those little bits of good put together that overwhelm the world." — Archbishop Desmond Tutu

Love is a verb. Not simply a feeling or thought. Grounded in God's love for us, we are called to act, to love. 1 John 4:11 puts it this way, "Beloved, since God loved us so much, we also ought to love one another." We take seemingly small actions to live out God's love. Here's the beautiful thing: together in community, we can change the world.

 **PLYMOUTH CHURCH**
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST
1217 Sixth Avenue, Seattle,
Washington 98101-3199

Return Service Requested

OUR PRAYERS ARE WITH...

Riley Balcita, Matt Banks, Ernie Boyer, Bob Brennan, Pam Dorrance, Rick Eberharter, Phil Fredrickson, Jackie Fouts (Mother-in-law of Al Wallace), Keili Geller (Granddaughter of Nancy Geller), Peter Gibbons (Brother of Eileen Gibbons), Joyce Irving (mother of Rev. Louis Mitchell), Michael Kaid, Libonati Family, Sharon Masse (Wife of Gary Magnuson), Jackie Maxon (Mother of Rev. Steve Davis), Bob and Jo Mitchell, Georgia Nelson, Dick, Jean and Alex Paul (Parents and Nephew of Beth Paul Russell), Tommy Rivers Puzey (Friend of Karen Clark), Jose Robles, Rod Shutt, Rev. Dr. Warren Stewart (Cousin of Karen Clark) and wife Karen, Jim Stultz (Brother of Doug Stultz), Jaime Rubio Sulificio, Jordyn Woodke and David Flores (friends of Karen Clark)

Our hearts are with the Gwilym/Tso family at the passing of Don Gwilym, member of Plymouth since 1968, on September 16.

Carol Reed's family is having a family-run Zoom memorial on **Saturday, September 19 at 2 pm**. If you would like to watch, please email June Hayakawa-Fung at JHayakawafung@PlymouthChurchSeattle.org.

The Plymouth *Herald* is published every week. **Deadline is Monday, 10 am, for Wednesday publication.** Stay current with Plymouth happenings on our website. Join us on Facebook, Twitter and Instagram!   

PLYMOUTH CHURCH HERALD

Volume 59
Number 2

September 16, 2020

FAITH FORMATION UPDATE: CHILDREN AND YOUTH

As we begin the new program year, here is the update about our faith formation programming for children and youth. Next week's *Herald* will include an update on adult faith formation programming.

Current Children and Youth Program:

5 kids on the roster — birth through pre-school

8 kids on the roster — K-5th grade (just Plymouth — Sanctuary Church has a few more)

5 kids on the roster — MYF (Middle school - 6th-8th grade)

15 kids on the roster — YF (High school - 9th-12th grade, including 5 seniors this year)

On any given Sunday when we were in person and now that we are online, it is typical to have about half the number of kids on the roster present.

Both MYF and YF have continued to meet regularly online since Covid began, and will meet once/week this fall. Critical mass is an issue with MYF, as often there are 2-3 kids online.

K-5 Sunday School has not met since Spring, but Jenny Kaiton has been in touch regularly with parents. She has been working with Rachel Park of Sanctuary Church to restart the Sunday School program for K-5, which will meet once/week on Sundays starting on September 27.

Jenny and the Faith Formation Team are curating additional online resources for families of pre-schoolers.

Thoughts about the Future: Hard decisions will have to be made in the next few years about how resources should be spent on a program with a declining number of children and youth. Given the current numbers, I'm not sure how much longer a completely separate Sunday School will make sense.

The good news is that multiple research studies have shown that the most effective faith formation programs are those that are intergenerational in structure — where kids and adults participate in the life of faith together and learn what it means to be a Christian together. That will require a substantial culture shift in our congregation, but I personally find it exciting. We may also



Jennifer Castle

find it beneficial to partner with other UCC churches for children and youth programming.

Faith formation for children and youth at Plymouth will not look the same as it did for those who came before, but their growth as people of faith has the potential to be even more robust.

I want to thank the Faith Formation Team (Rev. Kevin Bechtold, Anna Colwell, Jenny Kaiton, Al Trezona, and Matt Durland) for their hard work and dedication to our children and youth in these difficult circumstances. Please do not hesitate to contact me at JCastle@PlymouthChurchSeattle.org if you'd like further information or conversation about any of our faith formation programming.

—Jennifer Castle, Director of Faith Formation & Pastoral Intern ✨

LOVE IN ACTION

"Beloved, let us love one another, because love is from God; everyone who loves is born of God and knows God"

—1 John 4:7



In these challenging times, I find myself reflecting with gratitude on the community of Plymouth Church. We have a strong history of deep care for one another, and we are strengthening our connections in this present time—the Plymouth care team is reaching out to everyone, so no one is alone. As a church, even as we worship, pray, and grieve in our individual spaces, we are part of a community deeply rooted in love for one another, and that love is transcending distance.

We have a strong history of social justice, and are taking strong actions in this present time—to stand together against racism, to feed the hungry, and to get out the vote. As a church, we are making a meaningful difference in our neighborhood, city, and region. As Dr. Cornel West says, "Justice is what love looks like in public." To me, Plymouth looks like love in action.

We are collecting Plymouth stories of love and justice, which we will be sharing weekly as part of a year-round Stewardship project with the theme Beloved, Love from 1 John 4. If you'd like to contribute a "Love in Action" video for worship (2 minutes or less) or write a piece for the Herald (250-350 words) please get in touch with me at KynaGrace@gmail.com —Kyna Shilling ✨

SOME THOUGHTS ON HYMN TEXTS



Dr. Griffiths invites you to reflect on hymn texts.

I grew up in the church, quite literally. Our mother took us to Sunday School and church every week (want to see my collection of “Perfect Attendance” pins??); I sang with the tiny tots choir, then junior choir, then adult choir. At that time all the kids stayed in worship rather than leave for children’s church and so we learned the hymns very early, whether we were aware we were learning them or not. In college I learned how to be an organist and music director and started working for churches even before graduating.

So it can be very easy for me to go through the motions of singing hymns without actually paying attention to the words. With the arrival of screens on the worship scene, it usually falls to me to type in the texts for the screens, but given the time pressures of my work, typically I have been more focused on “get it done” than on paying attention to the words.

But as we have gone through these past several months, reeling from the changes and the traumas affecting so many people on so many levels, I have found a renewed connection with hymn texts. This week’s hymn: “God of Grace, and God of Glory” struck me as profound and deeply meaningful for this unprecedented time. The opening lines set the stage: “God of grace, and God of glory, on your people pour your power.” Translation – we NEED you! The second verse particularly spoke to me this morning:

*From the evils that surround us and assail the Savior’s ways,
from the fears that long have bound us— free our hearts
for faith and praise.*

*Grant us wisdom, grant us courage, for the living of these days,
for the living of these days.*

As is often the case in texts using a repeated phrase, that phrase gains new and deeper meaning each time it recurs. In this case the repeating phrase is “Grant us wisdom, grant us courage” and, oh, how we need both of those right now!! Note that the request is FIRST for wisdom, and THEN for courage.

The repeated phrase is followed in each verse by a specific request articulating why we need wisdom and courage — Vs 1: “for the facing of this hour;” Vs 2: “for the living of these days;” Vs 3: “make our broken spirits whole;” Vs 4: “in the quest for liberty;” and Vs 5: “serving you whom we adore.”

As you join in worship this Sunday and sing this hymn in your own space, I invite you to reflect on these words. They were written by Harry Emerson Fosdick in 1930 — 90 years ago for the opening service and dedication of Riverside Church in NYC, one of our sister UCC churches.

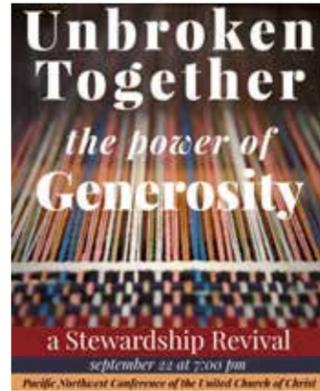
—Dr. Wanda Griffiths, Director of Music & Organist ✦

UNBROKEN TOGETHER:
THE POWER OF GENEROSITY

A Stewardship Revival with the UCC Pacific Northwest Conference

In the middle of a time of great need, sometimes it’s easy to forget we have much to offer and much to share. Generosity is at the heart of who God calls us to be and that’s something to celebrate. On **September 22 at 7 pm**, you are invited to a worship service that will lift up the ways we are called to give; celebrate the hope stirring among us; and share some resources to help your local church’s stewardship work. The Rev. Karen Georgia Thompson — the UCC’s Associate General Minister for Wider Church Ministries & Operations and Co-Executive for Global Ministries — will be our preacher for this gathering. Come join us!

Link: [Meetings.RingCentral.com/j/1489507740](https://meetings.ringcentral.com/j/1489507740), or join by phone: 1.623.404.9000 ✦



PLYMOUTH HOUSING KEY TO HOPE



Help reach the goal.

Our annual Key to Hope Luncheon has been re-imagined for 2020. This year, we’re sharing a whole week of hope, September 25–October 2! Through a compelling virtual experience, you’ll see our mission like you never have before during “Key to Hope Week: Inspiring Stories from 40 Years of Ending Homelessness.” We’ll take you into

Plymouth buildings, introduce you to staff and residents, and delve deeply into how we end chronic homelessness.

Key to Hope Week raises critical funds. Our goal is to raise over \$1.3 million. To help us reach our goal, the suggested individual donation for this event is \$150 to help provide housing and support to over 1,200 each year.

Here’s what you can expect:

- Friday, September 25: A 30 minute main program at noon, kicking off Key to Hope Week.
- Saturday, September 26 – Thursday, October 1: Four shorter Mission Moment videos, each providing an inside look at an aspect of our mission
- Friday, October 2: An email celebrating the impact of Key to Hope Week, closing out the event

All materials will be sent to the email you register with. Register and learn more at PlymouthHousing.org/Key-to-Hope/ ✦

HEALTH NEWS FOR SEPTEMBER

Get your flu vaccine early, it is available now! This time of COVID-19 has been unprecedented, in so many ways. Now there is much concern about this year’s flu season being compounded by COVID-19. One way to counteract this is to get your flu vaccine now. We know the flu vaccine not only reduces your risk of getting the flu, if you do get it, it reduces the severity and hospitalization. This year, it could help keep you out of the clinics and hospitals where they are likely to be busy caring for COVID cases. For more information please go to: PublicHealthInsider.com (active link at PlymouthChurchSeattle.org)



June Hayakawa-Fung, Faith Community Nurse

National Recovery month. September is a time to acknowledge and support those in recovery. As with so many other issues, COVID-19 has made recovery and mental health even more challenging. What can you do?

“It is so important to reach out and connect with those who are walking a path towards recovery. At the root of recovery is connection. With support, treatment, and strong community connections, people can, and do recover.” For more information please go to: PublicHealthInsider.com (active link at PlymouthChurchSeattle.org)

Suicide Awareness-Prevention month. This is yet another area that has been exacerbated by COVID-19. Increased isolation, uncertainty and financial hardships all add to the stress of our daily lives. Major risk factors for suicide include:

- Prior suicide attempt(s)
- Misuse and abuse of alcohol or other drugs
- Mental disorders, particularly depression and other mood disorders
- Access to lethal means
- Knowing someone who died by suicide, particularly a family member
- Social isolation
- Chronic disease and disability
- Lack of access to behavioral health care

Learn more about suicide risk and protective factors:

Sprc.org/About-Suicide/Risk-Protective-Factors (active link at PlymouthChurchSeattle.org)

The National Suicide Prevention Lifeline toll-free number, 1-800-273-TALK(8255) connects the caller to a certified crisis center near where the call is placed.

Last and certainly not least, is our poor air quality. Seattle and the surrounding areas have had the worst air quality in the world this week, and it is taking longer than originally thought, to clear. In my last check we went from Very Unhealthy to Unhealthy today (9/16/20). It is best to stay indoors now, with the windows closed. Learn more at: PublicHealthInsider.com (active link at PlymouthChurchSeattle.org); also AirNow.gov

This is a tremendous amount to hold and deal with friends. Take care of yourselves and stay connected. Remember to reach out for more support from the Care Team through email or by calling 206.622.4865 and leaving a message on the Care Line, checked daily. —June Hayakawa-Fung, Faith Community Nurse ✦

STAND UP, SPEAK OUT

As a majority white Christian church we have helped create, and have benefited from, systemic institutional racism. Now we must be part of changing it. This is one simple action we can take to show up.

Come when environmental conditions are safe for you and stay for any length of time you are able. Social distancing and mask-wearing protocols must be observed.



Keep the issues front and center.

Ruth Williamson is coordinating and scheduling this effort. Contact her (206.313.5931) for parking and other logistics. Remember to bring your sign and mask. ✦

SHARING FACES OF PEACE



We are collecting videos of Plymouth members “Passing the peace” to be used in our online worship services! If you would like to make a short video snippet to be included, email Sari at saribreznau@gmail.com and she will walk you through how to contribute. We’d love to see more Plymouth faces! ✦

WOMEN’S RETREAT ONLINE OCT 24

All those identifying as female or non-binary are invited to connect online for a retreat with each other. We plan to host this retreat during the late afternoon/evening of October 24 and we’ll provide some program time mixed with social time. Looking forward to having you there! To register, please email Jenny Kaiton JKaiton@PlymouthChurchSeattle.org and Anna Colwell AColwell@PlymouthChurchSeattle.org ✦